

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A semi-solid enteral nutrition product for enteral administration, not orally, but directly to a stomach or intestines of a dysphagic patient from an external container connected to an external portion of a feeding tube provided through a through-hole of a stoma formed through a portion of the abdominal and stomach walls of the patient upon the application of pressure to said external container, said semi-solid enteral nutrition product comprising:

a semi-solid material having a substantially self-supporting consistency that deforms to flow under an externally applied load without liquefying and that is capable of containing a higher concentration of a nutrient component than a liquid, said semi-solid material comprising a mixture of a liquid nutrient solution and a semi-solidifying agent comprising one of agar and a whole egg that is added to said liquid nutrient solution, the liquid nutrient solution being one of a defined formula diet and a semi-digested diet;

wherein said mixture comprises said semi-solidifying agent and said liquid nutrient solution in a predetermined ratio sufficient to ensure that said self-supporting consistency of said semi-solid enteral nutrition product remains substantially unchanged before, during, and after enteral administration of said semi-solid enteral nutrition product into the patient, and said self-supporting consistency of said semi-solid enteral nutrition product is further maintained within the stomach or the intestines of the patient such that said semi-solid enteral nutrition product does not liquefy due to the body temperature of the patient, to thereby prevent the patient from experiencing gastro-esophageal reflux.

2. (Previously Presented) The enteral nutrition product according to claim 1, wherein said feeding tube has an internal diameter that is larger than approximately 4 mm.

3. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing the semi-solid enteral nutrition product according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:

providing a holder comprising said container;

filling said holder with said mixture of said liquid nutrient solution and said semi-solidifying agent in a liquid state thereof; and

performing a heat-treating step to heat-treat said mixture within said holder, together with said holder, when said holder is filled with said mixture;

wherein said heat-treating step comprises cooling said mixture when said semi-solidifying agent is agar; and

wherein said heat-treating step comprises heating said mixture when said semi-solidifying agent is whole egg;

to thereby prepare said semi-solid enteral nutrition product.

4. (Previously Presented) A semi-solid enteral nutrition product administration device comprising:

a holder comprising said container; and

the semi-solid enteral nutrition product according to claim 1 provided within said holder;

wherein said semi-solid enteral nutrition product is prepared by a method comprising the steps of:

providing said holder;

filling said holder with said mixture of said liquid nutrient solution and said semi-solidifying agent in a liquid state thereof; and

performing a heat-treating step to heat-treat said mixture within said holder, together with said holder;

wherein said heat-treating step comprises cooling said mixture within said holder when said semi-solidifying agent is agar; and

wherein said heat-treating step comprises heating said mixture within said holder when said semi-solidifying agent is whole egg.

5. (Previously Presented) The semi-solid enteral nutrition product according to claim 1, wherein said semi-solidifying agent comprises agar which is added in amount of 1 gram to 200 ml of a diluting liquid that is added to said liquid nutrient solution.

6. (Previously Presented) The semi-solid enteral nutrition product according to claim 1, wherein said semi-solidifying agent comprises egg added in an amount of one whole raw egg to 250 ml of said liquid nutrient solution.

7. (Previously Presented) The semi-solid enteral nutrition product administration device of claim 4, wherein said administration device contains a required amount of said semi-solid enteral nutrition product for an administration dose which is fed into the patient one dose at a time.